

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PCH-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

DEPT OF THE TREASURY WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM THAILAND

CINCPACHONO

COMDT COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST VIA POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COMDT COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

GWERTZMAN (NYT, EXCERPTED IN SUN) REPORTS STATE DEPT SAYS

US IS FREE TO BREACH C-F BECAUSE NVN HAD VIOLATED IT;

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NOTES SPOKESMAN ANDERSON, IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED REQUESTS

FOR CONFIRMATION THAT US HAD RESUMED FLIGHTS OVER NVN IN

VIOLATION OF C-F, REFERRED NEWSMEN TO 1973 STATEMENT THAT

INTL LAW PERMITTED ONE PARTY TO BREACH AN ACCORD IF OTHER

SIDE HAD ALREADY DONE SO. ADDS THAT SECDEF AT TUESDAY NEWS CONFERENCE "VIRTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGED" FLIGHTS.

CONCLUDES US DIPLOMATIC NOTE ACCUSING NVN OF FLAGRANT C-F VIOLATION AND "VEILED JUSTIFICATION" OF RECON FLIGHTS SEEMED PART OF CONCERTED ADMIN EFFORT TO PERSUADE CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE MORE MIL AID TO GVN, AND ALSO TO BOLSTER SAIGON GOVT AND CAUTION NVN AGAINST LAUNCHING BIG OFFENSIVE. SAYS SECDEF SEEMED TO WARN HANOI DIRECTLY NOT TO THINK IT COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US LAW BARRING COMBAT INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA, AND STATED THAT IN EVENT OF MASSIVE OFFENSIVE PRES COULD GO TO CONGRESS THAT "MIGHT WELL" AUTHORIZE USE OF FORCE. SECDEF ALSO SUPPORTED INCREASED MIL AID FOR SVN.

GWERTZMAN STATES PRES IS EXPECTED TO CITE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SVN IN STATE OF UNION MESSAGE. REVIEWS QUESTION OF RECON FLIGHTS IN RELATION TO C-F. REFERS TO FORMER DOS SPOKESMAN BRAY'S APRIL 20, 1973 BRIEFING CONCERNING RECON FLIGHTS. QUOTES COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN JUNE, 1973, FOLLOWING HAK-THO PARIS TALKS, IN WHICH US AGREED TO CEASE RECON FLIGHTS OVER DRV.

NVN AND VC REJECT US CHARGE THAT THEY VIOLATE C-F ON MASSIVE SCALE (WSJ). BOTH REACT SHARPLY AND TURN CHARGE BACK ON US, ACCUSING IT OF INCREASING MIL INVOLVEMENT IN INDOCHINA. RADIO HANOI COMMENTARY SAYS DOS DISTORTED "DETERMINATION" BY SVN PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES ON "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" TO SELF-DEFENSE TO PUNISH GVN AND "DEFEND THE PARIS AGREEMENT" (AP, NYT). BROADCAST ADDS THAT OVER PAST TWO YEARS US HAS "CONSISTENTLY, SERIOUSLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY" VIOLATED C-F. IN PARIS, VC CALLED US NOTE "ARROGANT THREAT," SAID SVN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED (AP, GLOBE).

AT UN, SECGEN SAYS HE IS "VERY CAREFULLY" CONSIDERING US REQUEST THAT HE APPEAL TO COMMUNISTS TO STOP FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA (WSJ; UPI, NYDN). WALDHEIM EXPRESSED UNCLASSIFIED

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"GRAVEST CONCERN" AT INCREASED FIGHTING IN RECENT WEEKS; SAID ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PARTIES ABIDE BY C-F, BUT AVOIDED SINGLING OUT NVN AND VC (AP, SUN; WP).

HEAVY FIGHTING FLARES ALONG KHMER BORDER MILES WEST OF SAIGON, AND ALONG CENTRAL COAST PLAIN 300 MILES TO NORTH. SEVERAL ATTACKS ALSO REPORTED IN SAIGON AREA. SVN MIL OFFICIAL SAID HOSTILE ACTS HAVE REACHED WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE HIGHEST INTENSITY SINCE C-F (AP, SUN; WP). GVN COMMAND REPORTED SEVEN CIVILIANS KILLED BY MINE ON ROAD TEN MILES EAST OF SAIGON, AND THAT NVA HIT 66-TRUCK GVN CONVOY IN HIGHLANDS BUT WAS DRIVEN OFF. SVN MIL OFFICIALS SAID THAT 1600 GOVT TROOPS AND CIVILIANS

HAD FLED FALLEN PHUOC BINH (CHITRIB).

PREMIER KHIEM OPEN TEN-DAY CONFERENCE ON PLIGHT OF SVN CHILDREN. ORGANIZED BY GVN WITH HELP FROM UNICEF; SEVERAL HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING OVER 100 FOREIGNERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE SPECIALISTS WHO RESIDE IN SVN WORKING WITH VOLAGS (REUTER, NYT).

KHMER NAVY SOURCES SAY REBEL GUNNERS HIT MEKONG CONVOY OF REFUGEES FROM NEAK LUONG, KILLED 26 (AP BALTO N-A 1/14, NYT, SUN; UPI, NYDN; WP; CHITRIB). MIL SOURCES SAY INSURGENT BESIEGERS OF NEAK LUONG FIRED ROCKETS INTO PAGODA PACKED WITH REFUGEES, KILLED AT LEAST 40 (AP,

GLOBE; UPI, NYDN; CHITRIB). PP COMMAND REPORTS COUNTER-ATTACKS AIMED AT PUSHING REBEL FORCES BACK FROM POSITIONS OCCUPIED IN PAST TWO WEEKS (AP, SUN; WP). OFFICERS IN PP SAID ABOUT EIGHT US C-130S PER DAY HAVE BEEN DROPPING FOOD AND AMMO INTO NEAK LUONG (UPI, NYDN; CHITRIB).

MEKONG CONVOY CARRYING MUCH-NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR PP WAS FORCED TO TURN BACK UNDER HEAVY FIRE 19 MILES FROM SVN BORDER, ACCORDING PP PORT AUTHORITIES (REUTER PP).

WP, GLOBE, AND SUN (P. 1) FEATURE AP PHOTO OF REFUGEE CHILDREN IN CAMP NEAR PP IN LINE TO GET SOUP FROM RELIEF ORGANIZATION. WORRIED WAIF IN FOREGROUND WATCHES IN DISTRESS AS SOUP SHE HAS JUST RECEIVED DRIPS THROUGH HOLE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN BOWL.

2. CHINA

REUTER (PEKING) REPORTS FLAGS FLYING AT HALF-MAST WEDNESDAY IN CAPITAL ON DEATH OF VICE-PREMIER LI FU-CHUN.

REUTER'S GRIFFITHS (IN CANTON) REPORTS THAT DEMAND HEARD WITH REGULARITY IN WEST -- "WE WANT MORE MONEY" -- HAS ALSO BECOME SLOGAN OF EX-SOLDIERS IN CANTON. NOTES HANDWRITTEN POSTERS ALLEGING THAT DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR ALLOWANCES AND EXTRA PAYMENTS. BUT POSTERS DO NOT SEEM TO EXCITE MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST FROM CROWDS THRONGING STREETS, AND CANTON'S OTHER POSTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO HAS COME TO END.

OBSERVERS BELIEVE THIS PROBABLY INDICATES YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONFUCIUS AND LIN IS NOW OVER. BUT CANTON HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING ANOTHER SORT OF POSTER CAMPAIGN THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN LESS PUBLICITY. THESE

POSTERS, DETAILING COURT PROCEEDINGS, SELDOM APPEAR IN OTHER CHINESE CITIES OPEN TO FOREIGNERS, AND ARE NOT EASY TO SPOT IN CANTON. THEY LIST PEOPLE PUNISHED FOR VARIOUS SERIOUS CRIMES, RANGING FROM ASSAULT TO SPYING. CANTON'S CRIME PROBLEMS, THOUGH UNREMARKABLE BY WESTERN STANDARDS, SEEM TO CENTER AROUND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND TENSIONS ARISING FROM LARGE TIGHTLY-PACKED URBAN POPULATION. CITY AUTHORITIES HAVE FOUND ONE NOVEL ANSWER TO PROBLEM -- DISPLAYING OFFENDERS IN TUMBREL, INTENDED PUBLICLY TO HUMILIATE THEM.

3. THAILAND

PEKING HAS TOLD RTG IT SEES NO NEED FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM THAILAND, BANGKOK GOVT SPOKESMAN DECLARED WEDNESDAY. COMMENTING ON NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT CHOU EN-LAI TOLD DEPUTY FM CHATICHAI LAST WEEK THAT PRC DOES NOT OBJECT TO US FORCES REMAINING IN THAILAND IF SOVIET INCREASED ITS INDIAN OCEAN ACTIVITIES, RTG SPOKESMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTED CHATICHAI WAS TOLD BY CHOU IN PEKING LAST YEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NECESSITY TO WITHDRAW ALL US TROOPS FROM THAILAND, AND THAT CHOU HAD REPEATED SAME STATEMENT WHEN CHATICHAI RAISED QUESTION THIS TIME IN PEKING (REUTER BANGKOK).

4. PHILIPPINES

GOP REPORTS THAT OFFENSIVE AGAINST REBELS NEAR ZAMBOANGA LAST WEEK RETOOK LOGGING CAMP HELD BY MOSLEMS SINCE DEC; 25 HOSTAGES FOUND DEAD, MUTILATED (NYT).

5. KOREA

PARK TOLD PRESS YESTERDAY HE WOULD KEEP ABSOLUTE POWER UNTIL NK STOPS ALL "THREATS AND SCHEMES," NOTED STATEMENT IN N-S DIALOG WHICH SUGGESTS UNIFICATION MIGHT NOT COME IN THIS GENERATION (WP, SEOUL). PARK ALSO SAID HE DISTRESSED TO HEAR SOME PEOPLE CLAIM NK NOT CAPABLE OF STARTING NEW WAR, AND CHARGE HIS GOVT EXAGGERATES NK DANGER TO SUPPRESS PEOPLE (REUTER, NYT, WP).

REUTER (SEOUL) SAYS NDP LEADER KIM YOUNG SAM TOLD PRESS PARK SHOULD AMEND CONSTITUTION "TO REINTRODUCE DEMOCRACY IN A PEACEFUL AND RATIONAL WAY", THEN RESIGN. KIM ALSO CHARGED PARK REGIME IS CHRONICALLY CORRUPT, ABUSES FOREIGN AID.

WSJ (LONDON) SAYS ROKG NEGOTIATING EUROCURRENCY LOAN UP TO 200 MILLION DOLS WITH CITICORP AND OTHER BANKS

TO HELP MEET BOP DEFICIT.

CSM'S THORPE IN SEOUL WRITES THAT KOREAN NOVELISTS NOW PUTTING INTO STORY FORM THE TRUE-LIFE DRAMA OF 5 MILLION REFUGEES, INCLUDING MANY MARRIED COUPLES TRAGICALLY TORN APART BY POLITICAL DIVISION AT END OF WWII.

6. JAPAN

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LAT'S FISHER REVIEWS MAZDA REORGANIZATION, SAYS DEALERS SUFFOCATED WITH 18-MONTH NEW CAR INVENTORY (ABOUT 70,000), WITH MORE COMING.

JOC (TOKYO) SAYS MAZDA SALES IN US HURT BY EPA DISCLOSURE THAT ITS ROTARY ENGINE CONSUMES MORE GAS THAN COMPETITIVE MODELS. ALSO NOTES GOJ CONCERN OVER PRES STATEMENT MONDAY THAT HE PLANS TO ASK CONGRESS TO DELAY MUSKIE ACT EMISSION CONTROLS FIVE YEARS.

JOC'S CULLISON LOOKS AT GOJ INFIGHTING OVER TIGHT MONEY POLICY; SEES MIKI GOVT TRYING TO HOLD ANTI-INFLATION LINE LONG ENOUGH TO BLUNT LABOR'S EXPECTED 30 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE DEMANDS THIS SPRING.

WSJ (TOKYO) SAYS MAJOR COPPER SMELTERS TO CUT IMPORTS AGAIN, WITH MILLS NOW OPERATING AT 40 PERCENT OF CAPACITY DUE TO SLUMPING DEMAND.

AP (YOKOHAMA) REPORTS DISABLED BRITISH TANKER UNDER TOW SANK YESTERDAY 400 MILES WEST OF IWOJIMA; GERMAN TUG AND US FREIGHTER RESCUED CREW OF 51. GOJ TO CHECK FOR OIL LEAK.

WP'S MITCHELL IN LONG PIECE PORTRAYS ONODA AS QUIXOTIC SAMURAI, SUSTAINED BY JOB-LIKE FAITH DURING 30-YEAR WAIT FOR ORDER TO SURRENDER (JAN 14).

7. AUSTRALIA

JOC (LONDON) SAYS AUSTRALIAN WOOL COMMISSION BOUGHT HEAVILY IN POST-CHRISTMAS WOOL AUCTIONS TO MAINTAIN FLOOR PRICE OF 250 AUSTRALIAN CENTS PER KILO, FEARS IT MAY END SEASON WITH 2 MILLION BALE STOCKPILE.

8. NEW ZEALAND

LAT'S LAMB IN WELLINGTON FINDS DOWN-TO-EARTH PROBLEM-SOLVER OMBUDSMAN POWLES AND STAFF RECTIFIED 1,018 JUSTIFIED GRIEVANCES DURING 13-YEAR HISTORY OF OFFICE.

SAYS POWLES HAS FULL POWER TO INVESTIGATE, BUT NOT
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DIRECT; INSTEAD, RELIES ON COMMON SENSE, COMPASSION TO
RECOMMEND REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES (JAN 14).

9. HONG KONG

HKG TUESDAY SAID JAPANESE CONSORTIUM WITHDREW FROM 1.05
BILLION DOL SUBWAY PROJECT, ACCUSED IT OF "SERIOUS
ERROR OF JUDGMENT" IN MAKING 1973 BID. NO CONTRACT
EVER SIGNED, ONLY LETTER OF INTENT. HKG SAYS SUBWAY
TO BE BUILT, BUT AT HIGHER COST, DELAY OF ONE YEAR (JOC).

REUTER'S CHUAN, IN HK, DESCRIBES RAPID GROWTH OF
MACDONALD'S, OTHER WESTERN-STYLE TAKE-OUT, FAST-FOOD,
STANDS, WHICH BITING INTO TRADITIONAL NOODLE-SHOP
OPERATIONS. FINDS CHEAPER, TIME-SAVING MEALS APPEAL
TO WESTERNIZED YOUTH, AND MEAN LOWER OVERHEAD, HIGHER
PROFIT FOR OWNERS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. CHINA

CORNELL PROF URIE BRONFENBRENNER, WHO VISITED PRC IN
DEC 1973 WITH OTHER SPECIALISTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT,
REPORTS HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CHINESE CLASSROOM. FROM
CLASS THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS, ONLY ANSWERS. LEARNING
WAS ROTE: NO CONVERSATION, NO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, NO
PROJECTS, NO DISCOVERY. BUT CHILDREN APPEAR TO LEARN.
CHINA WAS FIRST COMMUNIST COUNTRY IN WHICH HE FOUND THAT
CHILDREN LOOKED, AND ACTED, LIKE THOSE DEPICTED IN
PARTY POSTERS -- SMILING, HEAD HIGH, AND ABOVE ALL, HARD
AT WORK.

MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP SPECIALIZING IN DEVELOPMENT OF
MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS AND SKILLS STATED THAT CLASS
LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY WAS AT LEAST AS HIGH AS IN US.
WHATEVER ONE MIGHT THINK OF METHOD, IT WAS DIFFICULT
TO FIND FAULT WITH OUTCOME. GROUP WAS FACED WITH
ANOTHER PARADOX: IF CHINESE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS INDEED
PRODUCING FEWER CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR
PROBLEMS THAN OUR OWN, THIS IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY
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METHODS WE HAVE REJECTED AS OUTMODED AND INEFFECTIVE.
BUT TO EXTENT THAT DISCIPLINE IMPLIES PUNISHMENT, OR
EVEN CRITICISM DIRECTED AT CHILDREN, SUCH EVENTS ARE
CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE, NOT ONLY IN CHINESE

SCHOOLS, BUT ALSO IN CHINESE SOCIETY GENERALLY.

DURING VISIT, GROUP SCARCELY EVER OBSERVED CHILDREN BEING REPRIMANDED, LET ALONE PUNISHED. HEARD REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED WAS CONFIDENT EXPECTATION OF COMPETENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR, FOLLOWED BY ITS MANIFESTATION, WHICH, IN TURN, EVOKED APPRECIATION AND PRAISE. BUT

SHARPEST CONTRAST WITH US SCENE WAS NOT IN HOW CHILDREN WERE TREATED, BUT BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CONTEXT. BOTH IN SCHOOL AND OUT, LABORERS AND FARMERS ARE AT HAND TO SHOW HOW TASK IS DONE AND TO EXPATiate UPON SIGNIFICANCE OF BOTH PRODUCER AND PRODUCT IN ACHIEVING SOCIETY'S HIGHEST GOAL -- TO "SERVE THE PEOPLE."

FROM WESTERN PERSPECTIVE, METHODS AND CONTENT OF CHINESE SCHOOL APPEAR STERILE AND STULTIFYING; BUT CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY OCCUR MAY BE MORE VITALIZING TO DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN BEINGS THAN INCREASINGLY ISOLATED WORLD WE CREATE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

PHILA BULLETIN CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM MRS. SHAPP'S "CHINA DIARY"; PENN GOV AND WIFE TOURED PRC LATE LAST YEAR. SOON BECAME CLEAR TO HER THAT REPORTS ABOUT GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CHINA "ARE QUITE TRUE." PEOPLE WERE ALL WARMLY DRESSED; ONLY VERY FEW WERE SHABBY, ALL LOOKED ADEQUATELY FED (JAN 12).

IN SECOND INSTALLMENT (JAN 13), MRS. SHAPP RODE SUBWAY; NOT AS GRAND AS ONE IN MOSCOW, NOR AS SILENT AS MONTREAL'S METRO -- BUT IT PUT PHILA TO SHAME. AT SHOPS, SHE FOUND SALES PEOPLE POLITE AND HELPFUL; PRICES FIXED, NO HAGGLING. LUNCH WITH BUSHES AT "US LEGATION" WAS "WARM, FRIENDLY, RELAXED." VISITING RESTAURANT WITH ITS "SPECTACULAR" FOOD, SHE WONDERED THAT "SOCIETY LIKE THIS HAS RESTAURANTS OF CORDON BLEU CALIBER; MAN ON STREET HAS MONEY. OBVIOUSLY THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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MUST BE PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD THE TAB. OR IS IT ONLY TOURISTS WHO DINE IN SUCH STYLE?

ON WAY TO VISIT GREAT WALL AND MING TOMBS, SHAPPS SAW COUPLE OF NASTY ACCIDENTS, "BUT OUR RETINUE GOES SUDDENLY HARD WHEN WE SUGGEST STOPPING TO HELP." SHE RECOUNTS ALSO VISIT TO HOSPITAL, WITNESSING ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT AND TRIP TO COMMUNE.

11. INDOCHINA

NYT'S MARKHAM NOTES RECENT COMMUNIST ATTACKS HAVE THRUST WAR BACK INTO NEWS "PROBABLY TO THEIR CHAGRIN,"

AND WORD "OFFENSIVE" IS PREMATURELY ON SOME LIPS.
SAYS MOST FOREIGN ANALYSTS BELIEVE COMMUNISTS HAVE
SET LIMITED GOALS FOR 1975. BELIEVES THEY ARE OPERATING
UNDER WEIGHTY CONSTRAINTS. IN OPINION OF MANY ANALYSTS,
HANOI'S LEADERS DO NOT CONSIDER RESUMPTION OF B-52
BOMBING UNTHINKABLE, AND TO AVOID POSSIBILITY MUST

KEEP ACTIONS IN SVN WITHIN LIMITS. SIMILARLY, COMMUNISTS
MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO REVERSE CONGRESSIONAL OPINION
THAT SKEPTICAL FOR MOST PART, OR EVEN HOSTILE, TOWARD
GVN. SOME CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT SOVIET
AND CHINA WOULD NOT BE PLEASED TO SEE VN WAR FLARE UP
TO DEGREE THAT MIGHT SET BACK RELATIONS WITH US.

MARKHAM WONDERS HOW DEEPLY US CARES ABOUT DESTINY OF
GVN, AND HOW CONVINCING ARE US APPEALS TO MOSCOW AND
PEKING TO "LEAN ON" HANOI; BELIEVES REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE
VN COMMUNISTS HAVE FELT CERTAIN PRESSURE FROM RUSSIANS
AND CHINESE. CONSIDERS IDEOLOGY AS MOST INTERESTING
RESTRAINT OF ALL, SINCE VC AND NVN DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES
AS INTENT ON MERE TERRITORIAL AGGRANDIZEMENT, BUT SAY
PRESENT CAMPAIGN IS TO FORCE US AND GVN TO CARRY
OUT C-F PROVISIONS, AND HAVE DEMANDED THIEU GO AND
BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE WILLING TO ABIDE BY AGREEMENTS
(OR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF AGREEMENTS).

APPEARS TO MANY THAT ONE GOAL OF ATTACKS IS TO DEAL
GVN SERIES OF REVERSES THAT WILL EITHER BRING IT
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DOWN OR BRING IT TO CONFERENCE TABLE WITH "WHOLE
BAG OF CONCESSIONS." COMMUNISTS ALSO EVIDENTLY HOPE
TO WEAKEN ARVN, GAIN POPULATION AND ENHANCE MIL AND
TERRITORIAL POSITION. ONE HIGHLY INFORMED VIET SOURCE
SAYS COMMUNIST DOCUMENTS SPEAK OF TWO POSSIBILITIES AT
END OF 1975 CAMPAIGN: EITHER GVN WILL BEGIN TO MAKE
CONCESSIONS, OR "LIBERATION FORCES" WILL BE IN MUCH
IMPROVED POSITION OF LAUNCH MORE DECISIVE ATTACKS IN
1976.

MARKHAM NOTES THAT 1976 HAS MUCH TO RECOMMEND IT SINCE
GVN WILL HOLD PRES ELECTION THIS OCT THAT MAY BE FOCUS
OF FURTHER POLITICAL UNREST, AND 1976 WILL BE PRESIDENTIAL
YEAR IN US. RECALLS THAT IN '68 AND '72 COMMUNISTS HAD
CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS WITH DRAMATIC MIL THRUSTS THAT
CAPITALIZED ON SHIFTS IN US AROUND ELECTION TIME.
REVIEWS FIGHTING SO FAR THIS DRY SEASON; SAYS GVN HAS
FEW RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO COMMUNIST THRUSTS. REPORTS
MANY EXPECT COMMUNIST TRY FOR TAY NIN, AND BATTLE
OF THAT SIZE COULD HAVE SERIOUS REVERBERATIONS IN GVN.

THIMMESCH WRITES IN SUN THAT SVN, LIKE TROUBLE-PRONE

RELATIVE, COMES BACK TO MIND WHEN DRY SEASON LETS
ARMIES MOVE AND STRIKE, AS NVA AND VC HAVE THESE MANY

YEARS. AND AGAIN WE MUST ASK OURSELVES WHAT WE ARE
ALL ABOUT.

SEES SOUTH THREATENED AGAIN, SINCE NORTH "NATURALLY"
IGNORED C-F, POURED MEN, WEAPONS INTO SOUTH, LEADING
TO BIG FIGHT IN WHICH SOUTH LOST ITS FIRST PROVINCIAL
CAPITAL SINCE "PEACE WITH HONOR". AMERICAN VOICES,
WHO HATE THIEU, HOLLER ABOUT BLOODSHED, BUT DON'T SAY WHO
CAUSES IT. NOTES SENATOR MCGOVERN PREDICTS SVN
COLLAPSE, BUT ASKS WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED OF MAN WHO
VOTED AGAINST MIL AID FUNDS, WHICH ONLY HELPS REALIZE
THE DETERIORATION HE FORECASTS.

POINTS OUT SVN NOT LIKELY TO GO DOWN DRAIN, BUT IS
STRAPPED FOR MIL SUPPLIES US PLEDGED TO REPLACE
ONE-FOR-ONE IN C-F AGREEMENT. US PRETTY WELL LIVED
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UP TO PROMISE UNTIL CONGRESS CUT 1975 VN AID REQUEST
IN HALF. NOW SVN AMMO MAY LAST TO JUNE, OR ONLY
APRIL IF BIG BATTLE BREAKS OUT, BUT DRV IS WELL
SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS, CHINESE.

SVN HAS NO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR US, BUT DOES FIT
INTO WORLD POWER BALANCE, AND WE DID PLEDGE TO BACK
IT MILITARILY. SO AGAIN US FORMALLY CHARGES HANOI WITH
GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF C-F, AND WARNS IT MUST ACCEPT FULL
CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTIONS, AS SIGNAL THAT ADMIN
WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR ENOUGH FUNDS TO SEE SVN THROUGH
SPRING MIL CRISIS. ALL ELSE, HE SAYS, IS "SO MUCH
HORSE DUNG."

"SO IT COMES DOWN TO OUR WORD. DO WE MEAN IT? DO WE
KEEP IT WITH ISRAEL, BREAK IT WITH SVN? ARE WE
IDEALISTIC OR CYNICAL. DOES IT ALL COME DOWN TO WHO HOLDS
POWER IN CONGRESS?"

WP CARRIES FIVE LETTERS ON "US RESPONSIBILITY IN VIETNAM,"
FOUR VOICING SYMPATHY FOR SVN CAUSE. IN ONE, GEORGETOWN
U PROF PENNIMAN OBSERVES THAT ARVN AMMO SHORTAGES EXIST
BECAUSE US CONGRESS DID NOT PROVIDE NEEDED MIL AID THAT
"VIETNAMIZATION MORALLY OBLIGATED AMERICA TO GIVE."
CONTRASTS EXISTENCE OF VOCAL POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN
SVN WITH NVN ELECTIONS IN WHICH "NO INCUMBENT HAS EVER
BEEN DEFEATED"; NOTES ALSO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "LIVELY
NEWSPAPER TOWN" OF SAIGON, DESPITE ITS LIMITATIONS ON

PRESS FREEDOM, AND HANOI SITUATION. CALLS ON CONGRESS
TO PROVIDE MILITARY AID SO SVN CAN DEFEND ITSELF AND

ITS "RELATIVE FREEDOM."

ANOTHER WP WRITER (USN CAPT. TAUSSIG, RET) OBSERVES THAT WHILE THIEU IS CERTAINLY "AN ISSUE," MORE SIGNIFICANT IS FACT THAT VN REFUGEES STILL FLEE SOUTHWARD. JEFFREY GAYNER, OF VN VETS FOR JUST PEACE, ASSERTS THAT BY FAILING TO PROVIDE OUR ALLIES ASSISTANCE SO THEY CAN NOW DEFEND THEMSELVES, OR BY NOT FORCING END TO SINO-SOVIET AID TO NVN, WE REVEAL THAT PAST TWO YEARS "MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST INDECENT AND IGNOMINIOUS PERIODS

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IN OUR NATIONAL HISTORY."

RETIRED GEN. KATSAINOS RECALLS THAT IN LATE FORTIES AT PENTAGON HE RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM ROC MILATT FOR "WHEREWITHAL TO COMBAT" MOAIST FORCES; TO HIS REGRET THESE REQUESTS, FAVORED IN DOD, WERE TURNED DOWN BY DOS. "NOT SURPRISINGLY, OUR CHINESE FRIENDS" SUCCUMBED. FORTUNATELY, STATE IS NOT NOW "CAPTIVATED" BY COMMUNIST LOBBY. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE010911
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750018-0384
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750189/baaaaghn.tel
Line Count: 514
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JAN 2003 by daviscw>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971001
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, US, XC, PFOR
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
DEPT OF THE TREASURY
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BUDAPEST VIA POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006